Seated Half Society Founded 2021

Half Crazy

Feb 2026
Issue No. 18

The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society

1842 Small and Medium Dates

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

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1842 PCGS-64 Small date/Small Letters

Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Founded 1973
Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973

Half Crazy

The Newsletter of the

Seated Half Society

Feb 2026, Issue #18

Current Membership - **43**

1842-O PCGS-65 Medium Date

Seated Half Society has 43 Members

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SHS President's Letter

Dennis Fortier, SHS President

2025 provided a banner closing of the year for Seated Half Society Membership taking us to 43 members. Additionally it also provided the 55th known 1878-S (See pg 4). The Featured Article is something I put together and was intended for publishing in the August 2025 issue. However, so much material came to me I postponed it till November and again had to postpone it until this issue. I'm glad I did as new information on this variety has just come to light. I hope you enjoy it.

This year we take a deeper dive into date sizes starting with 1842. A very interesting year for die variety collectors. Bill Bugert in his continuing search for the 1849 Dramatically Doubled Date has uncovered the 39th example of this very rare variety. A possible 40th example is being looked into as of this writing.

I hope to produce an article on the 1846-O Tall Date WB-25 in an upcoming issue. I am therefore looking for examples of this rare die variety for inclusion in a census. Please check your collections for this variety. If you find you have one please send along detailed information to me. Thanks.

I put a **"tell"** in this newsletter. I wonder if anyone will catch it.

Finally, I received an email from a member. He wanted me to add a coin into his registry for the SHS. Please note, I do not keep registry's of members collections. I believe in your privacy. Once you are audited no records are kept.

Dennis Fortier
SHS President

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Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All LSCC members who qualify are welcome. We hope you will join our association and become a member of the Seated Half Society.

Dennis Fortier, SHS President
ricajun@msn.com

Verne Pitman SHS Vice-President
vwpitman@gmail.com

Also, see the club By-laws and Audit information, on the club webpage

1878-S BB-55

By Bill Bugert

1878-S Half Dollar BB-55

Multiple scratches thru Liberty, the rock, and thru stars 12-13 Small rim bump at K-7	Multiple deep gouges thru the eagle's head, left wing, left leg, scroll, and legend Damaging rim bump at K-8
Grade: VG10 details	Certified: PCGS VG Details #58734538
Cross reference: N/A	

Known Pedigree Details

Tom McGlaughlin family collection. This coin has been in the family since the 1960s. Dealer Dan Dolan presented it to the LSCC table on November 7, 2025 at Whitman's Baltimore Winter Expo. He was asking $44,000 for it on behalf of the family.

Photo credit: PCGS.com

Notes:
This coin has no known records prior to this offering. It is an attractive example of this rare date but unfortunately it was handled improperly.

Feature Varieties

1842 Small and Medium Dates

1842 PCGS-20 Small Date, Small Letters

1842 Is an interesting date to collect with different date sizes and several Rarity-5 thru Rarity-7 die varieties to look for. The 1842-O Small date is the well recognized star of this date but the real star is the 1842 Small Date/Small letters of Philadelphia with just four known!

Considered uncollectable with so few known, it's prices are far more reasonable than the equally rare 1853-O No Arrows and Rays. The four (listed in *Bill Bugert's Register of New Orleans Half Dollars*) are wide ranging in grade. From Mint State 64 through Good-6 CAC. Of course price is only one factor. With just four known availability is the real determining factor here.

This variety leaves dedicated Liberty Seated Half Dollar specialist hunting in hopes of uncovering a fifth example. While this may be like looking for a unicorn, the hope is always there. This variety was discovered not to long ago, in fact after *Wiley/Bugert's Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars* was published in 1992.

The coin pictured above sold in 2013 for $25,850, and again in 2019 for $30,027.60. The PCGS-64 example on the opening page sold for $99,875 in 2014, and just $84,000 in 2022. A loss of $15,000!

(continued on the next page)

Feature Varieties (continued)

1842-O PCGS-62 Small Date

The 1842-O Small Date as previously mentioned is an important issue, in fact THE most important issue of this date for most Seated Half collectors looking to complete more than a not so simple date/mint set. With just two die varieties, and both of them Rarity-5's, this is a difficult and pricey addition to any collection. WB-1 generally comes poorly struck, while WB-2 is usually a better struck example. Look for WB-2 when possible.

1842-O PCGS-64 Medium Date

(Continued next page)

Featured Varieties (Continued)

The 1842-O Medium Date has eleven die varieties with two Rarity-5's and one Rarity-6 to look for. The Medium Date variety is generally more available and affordable than the Small Date. Therefore it is the go to variety for a Date/Mint collector.

1842 NGC-58 Small Date (Randy Wiley Collection)

The 1842-P Small Date has a total of seven die varieties. One of which we have already talked about, the super rare 1842 Small Date/Small letters. There are six other die varieties with the small date for the Philadelphia issue. Three of which are also rare. The WB-2, 3, and 4, are Rarity-6, Rarity-6, and Rarity-5 respectively. Pictured above is the WB-3 Double Die Reverse. This variety is well-known to Liberty Seated Half Dollar specialists.

1842 PCGS-65 Medium Letters

(Continued next page)

Featured Varieties (Continued)

The 1842-P Medium Letters has eleven die varieties and all are of a more common nature. Here is where the Date/Mint collector will find an affordable example of this date.

PCGS Coinfacts lists a mintage of just 10 for the 1842 Proof half dollar. Disregarding the Proof and the 1842 Small Date/Small letters, the other 1842 issues provide numerous challenges for the die variety collector. Good hunting. (End)

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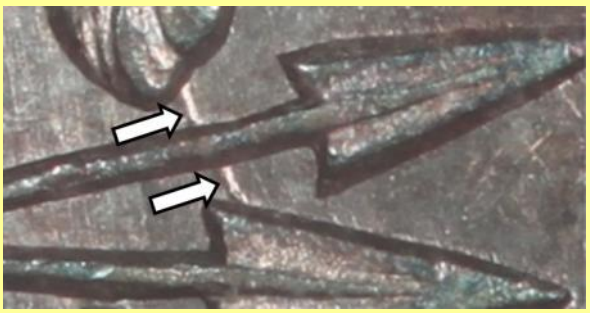
Can You Identify This Die Variety (challenge)

We had one member identify this as **WB-25 1846-O Tall Date**. (Photo by John Frost.) Currently I am trying to put together a census of this variety. If you have one in your collection please contact me. ricajun@msn.com Here is this months challenge.



Photos by Bill Bugert

Recent Heritage Auction Of Collector grade semi-key Dates

1852-O NGC-55

1846 over Horizontal 6 PCGS-50

A recent auction on Heritage in December 2025 featured a significant number of key dates and better varieties from one collection Here is brief rundown of the coins sold.

Eight 1840 (O) WB-4's, A-25 $1,110, P-30 $1,110, A-40 $1,800, P-40 $2,100, P-40 Det. $990, P-45 $2,280, P-45 $1,920, and a **Gold CAC P-45 for $7,200!**

Three 1842-O WB-2's, P-25 $2,040, N-40 $3,240, and a P=40 $3,360.

One 1844-O Double Date, P-20 $2,280.

Three 1846 over Horizontal 6, P-20 $1,560, P-50 $2,880, and P-53 $3,000.

Two 1846-O Tall Dates, A-40 $2,640, P-58 $5,520.

Six 1852-O's, A-25 $840, P-40 $1,140, P-40 $1,560, P-45 $1,680, P-50 $2,760, N-55 $2,400.

Information Wanted!

By Bill Bugert

I am currently compiling information on examples of the 1849 WB-6 Dramatically Doubled Date and 1873 No Arrows Open 3 (both varieties) half dollars and am **seeking your assistance**. If you own either of these varieties and wish information on them included in my to-be-published Registers (similar to my 1878-S Register), please contact me at wb8cpy@earthlink.net. I am specifically looking for pedigree information, prices paid, and photographs. Please help!

To date and considering possible duplicate entries, I can account for approximately 38 different 1849 DDDs and 66 different 1873 NAOP3 half dollars. I believe there are others.

Date photos of these two major varieties are depicted below and detailed information is included in my books.

A 39th 1849 DDD has been found by Bill Bugert and a possible 40th is being looked into as of this writing.

Feature Article
1877/6 Liberty Seated Half Dollar

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Ok I admit, up till now I haven't been very interested in the 1877/6 die variety. Frankly I didn't believe I would own one unless I cherrypicked it because the prices were so high. However, the coin shown was won by me on Heritage in May of this year for Greysheet bid. As you see it is the lowest grade where you can still see the 6 on top of the 7. The 6 is weak on this example but it is still there.

There are a total of 42 graded by PCGS/NGC/and ANACS from XF-40 on up, fully half of them are in details holders. Below the XF grade the 6 disappears. The PCGS price guide starts at $3,000 for an XF-40 and quickly goes to $4,500 in XF-45. Greysheet in XF-40 is $1,000. Mint State 64 has a PCGS price range of $17,500 to $27,500.

So, with 42 graded (21 problem free) by the three grading services, just how scarce is this variety? In this article we will take a closer look at the diagnostics on the reverse die in hopes that more clues will come to light. (cont)

Feature Article

1877/6 Liberty Seated Half Dollar

PCGS						
40	45	50	55	62	64	total
2	3	1	2	2	4	14
NGC				61	Det	
1			1	1	21	24
ANACS						
2	1		1			4
Total						
5	4	1	4	2/1	4/21	42

As you can see in the chart above there are a total of 42 1877/6's graded with the variety. 21 are in details holders at NGC. PCGS and ANACS do not list details coins. 7 are problem free Mint State and at the other end of the scale 5 are graded XF-40.

Some further clues may be had from the reverse diagnostics. Die cracks can often be as individual as fingerprints. In the instance of the 1877/6 that is certainly the case.

If you look at the photo above you will see the die crack going through STATES climbs up from the first S to the second T and then down too the second S. A singularly interesting pattern.

Continued on the next page

Feature Article

1877/6 Liberty Seated Half Dollar

Notice the uprights of the N in (U)N(ITED), there is an upwards die crack between them. This taken in combination with the die crack through STATES makes the reverse of the 1877/6 easy to confirm the reverse used on the 1877/6 variety. But is that the end of the story?

There are 42 1877/6's graded so far, with an unknown number that may be raw or in holders without the variety. The 1877-P has a high mintage so a speculative guess would be 75-100, with the 6, may eventually come to light. This of course is just a guess.

Now the thing that needs to be determined is, was this reverse used on any other die marriage? **It appears this question has been answered, please proceed to the next page.**

(Continued on the next page)

Featured Article (Cont)

FLASH News… At the Winter FUN show Ryan Baker presented me with an 1877 LSHD that had the same reverse of the 1877/6 but with a different Obverse. The coin was an XF-45 and there was no question of the lack of a 6 over the seven.

As can be quickly seen by examining the 1 in the date, the date placement of the 1877/6 (top photo) and the new die marriage (bottom photo) are quite different.

The upright of the 1's line-up to different points of the shield. Even more pronounced, the serifs of the 1's line-up differently with the denticles below the 1.

It is possible to detect a low grade (VF and lower) 77/6 by the reverse die cracks and the date position. However with the 6 worn off just how valuable is it.

Feature Article (Cont)

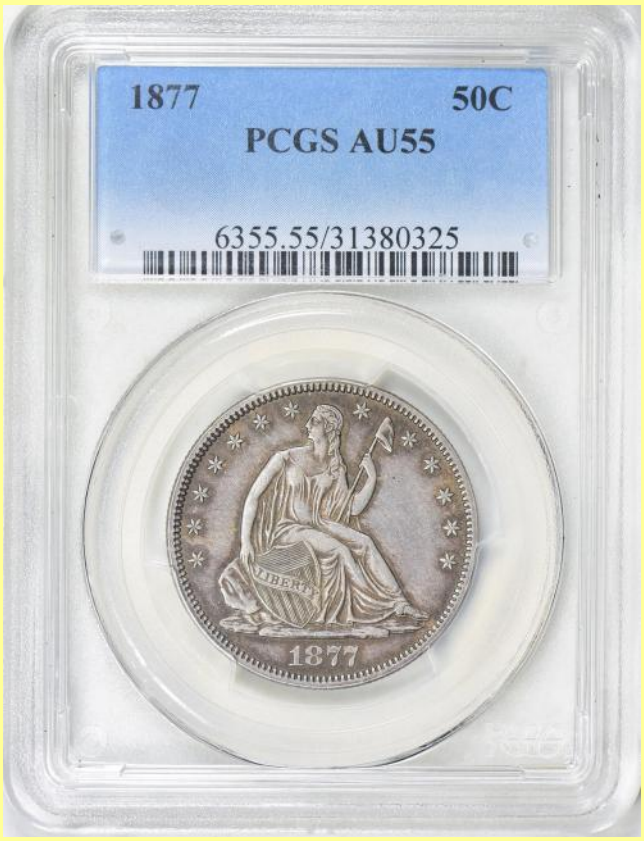
Baker coin

1877 PCGS-45 CAC Reverse of 1877/6 (Photos of the new die marriage by John Frost)

Note the die crack over the up-right in (U)N(ITED)

As well as the die crack going through the olive leaves. These die cracks perfectly match the 1877/6.

Feature Article (Cont)



Photos from Great Collections

Bill Bugert found this AU example of the new die marriage on Great Collections. Note the die cracks continuing thru H(ALF), and beginning at the arrow points. Thanks to these extended and new die cracks he is of the opinion that the 1877/6 was made before this die marriage.

Featured Article (Cont)

Note the radial die cracks on this high grade 1877/6 obverse and reverse.

Feature Article (Cont)

One final note: It turns out Bill Bugert already knew about this die marriage (8 H) with the reverse of the 77/6 and different obverse, but never associated it with the 77/6. I guess even the Master can woops. Good work Ryan.

P.S. This is the kind of collaborative work that makes this club the best in the hobby.

End.

All photos unless otherwise stated are from Heritage coin auctions

(100 points needed for membership in the Seated Half Society, see our webpage for details)

http://lsccweb.org/SHS-homepage.shtml

Request for Content

Any publication is only as good as the content it receives from its members. Articles, stories and photos are always welcome and encouraged! Please submit to the SHS Editor, Dennis Fortier at: **ricajun@msn.com**

Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All who qualify are welcome! We hope you will join our association and become a founding member of the Seated Half Society.

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